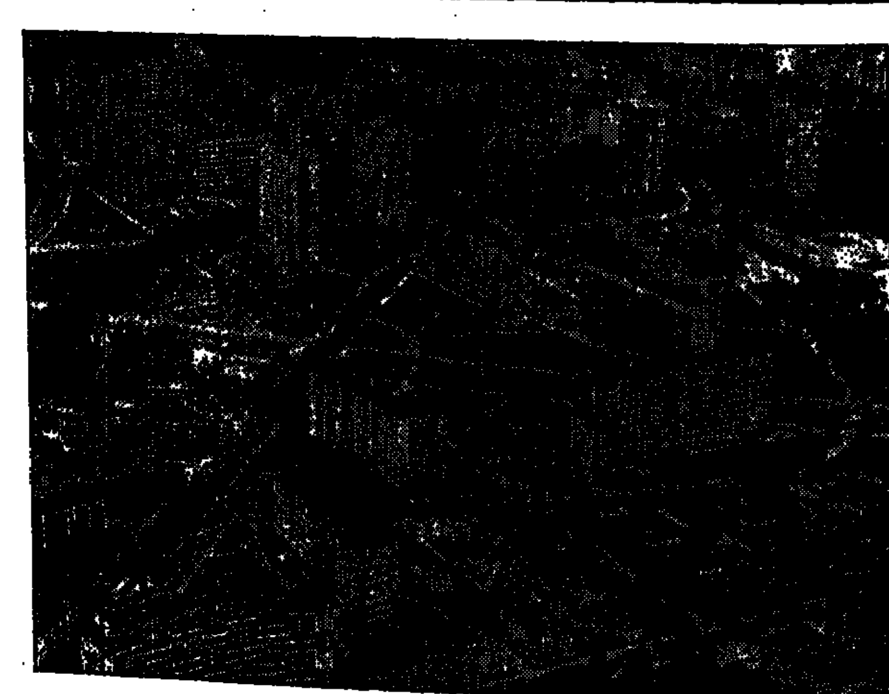
Germany's towns and cities

Let's take Bremen: both city and port where, however, in the Schnoor district, picturesque alleys, once the home of medieval craftsmen, and 500-year-old gabled houses are to be found. Or the small township of Münzenberg in Hesse, with its castle. Or Fritzlar, with half-timbered buildings, alcoves, fountains and lanes dating from times when people still went on foot or rode in mail-coaches. Great cities, but also fairytale-like towns no larger than a football pitch. Then again, the modern aspect as in West Berlin's Märkisches Viertel or Hansa-Viertel, created by famous architects from all over the world. A journey through Germany's towns and cities is like a study trip, exc... and amusing. Just think of al... restaurants offering special... and the many small taverns ... nearly every corner!





Freudenberg

Berlin

The German Tribune

...burg, 1 February 1981
...tieth Year - No. 974 - By air

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

C 20725 C
ISSN 0016-8858

Hostages release vindicates US commonsense approach



Triumphant moment in Wiesbaden: former President Carter with one of the released hostages, Bruce Laingen, ex US Chargé d'Affaires in Tehran. (Photo: dpa)

The most lasting memory of the US hostages episode, especially in the ..., will be the shock when the vic... were taken — as a completely arbi... act by youthful fanatics and a ...h of elementary internal law.

...ird World countries, it must be ...tted, endorsed the condemnation of ... by the UN security Council and ...International Court of Justice.

...t the implacable attitude of Ayatol... Khomeini and the mass demonstra... against the hostages and against ... United States seemed to provide an ...ht into the abyss of North-South ...lict.

...e true significance of the deed can ... be appreciated by recalling events ...ediately before the hostages were ... and, indeed, the history of Iran ...re the Shah was ousted.

... judging Iran today it must be re...bered that the Shah flew to the ...ed States on 22 October 1979, pur...dly for a medical check-up. To this ... reasons that prompted President ... to give his approval are unclear.

...en there were the years of close ...ation with the Shah and his ty...ical regime by the United States and ... Western countries. They too must ... be forgotten.

...en so, a breach of the law of this ...gnitude, maintained moreover for ...h a long period without as much as a ...ture of regret, is a bad example.

...t took world affairs to the brink of ... and it was to America's credit, more ...ticularly to that of the US President, ...t war was not declared.

Apart from the one failed bid to re...e the hostages forcibly, Jimmy Carter ...isted the temptation to impose a mi...ary solution, always assuming solution ... be the right word.

An American commentator compared ... Carter's stand with that of President ...nedy at the time of the Cuban cri...

The release of the hostages would thus seem to have been a final vindication of the policy pursued by the former President — and a victory for political common sense.

Yet as so often, it was admittedly unable to accomplish more than a most incomplete restoration of the status quo, the situation that had previously obtained.

Iran eventually had to release the hostages and in return, as far as one can see, was merely given back what had been its property in any case.

True, it was it able to show the world yet again that military might is often incapable of achieving much in political terms — a point previously made by the Vietnamese, the Algerians and others.

The United States can only now, 15 months after the questionable admission of the ailing Shah for medical treatment, resume ties with Iran at the low point then reached.

This should prove none too easy, yet maybe US offers of a gradual resumption of economic cooperation after the end of the boycott would be given a ready hearing in certain circles.

This could certainly be the case if such offers were to be accompanied by specific assurances — of, say, supplies of arms and military equipment.

In the war with Iraq, Tehran must surely need military supplies. In the penultimate phase of the struggle to secure the release of the hostages arms supplies seem to have been a consideration.

President Reagan is unlikely to have any inhibitions about supplying Iran with military hardware as soon as possible.

Memories of Iran's erstwhile role as a stabilising factor in the Persian Gulf will not have been forgotten in Washington — any more than it has been in Moscow.

Where the Soviet Union is concerned there was a series of almost desperate last-minute bids to frustrate the Algiers agreement by peddling rumours that the United States intended to attack Iran.

Even if Mr Reagan has to bide his time for a while, the United States has been relieved of a dangerous burden now the hostages have been freed.

There is no longer the temptation to revert to military means after all, and after the failure of the April 1980 rescue bid US military intervention would have had to run much greater risks this time.

There would have been no way of telling how the Soviet Union might have reacted, so a grave risk to world peace has been eliminated.

It is now up to the experts to consider whether and how future breaches of this kind might be prevented. Prospects look none too bright.

So it will probably be much more important for politicians not to forget too readily the experience gained and the anxiety shared last time round.

Events of this kind, outrageous though they may be, always have their causes. Detecting and, as far as possible, eliminating them is a full-time task.

There are many ways, depending on historical and other circumstances, in which to set about it.

There are those, especially in the West, who are not yet so pessimistic as to feel that force is the only way to settle the many injustices in the world.

They in particular are called on to set about eliminating the root causes that give rise to such events.

Hans Gerlach

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 21 January 1981)

IN THIS ISSUE

Bonn helped behind the scenes

Bonn played a crucial part behind the scenes to help obtain the release of the American hostages in Tehran.

The efforts in particular of Hans-Jürgen Wischnewski, the deputy SPD chairman and former Minister of State at the Chancellor's Office, are reported to have been especially influential.

Former President Carter referred to the West German effort when he was in Wiesbaden to welcome the released hostages.

He said that history alone would tell what a major contribution had been made by Chancellor Schmidt and Foreign Minister Genscher.

Mr Carter did not mention Wischnewski by name, but observers recalled that Iranian Deputy Premier Tabatabei conferred with him several times in Bonn last year.

Ben Wisch, a Herr Wischnewski is nicknamed, is known to have extensive contacts in the Arab world and these ties are reported to have played a key role in persuading Algeria to act as an intermediary.

Mr Carter's words of appreciation were echoed by Walter J, Stoessel, the outgoing US ambassador to Bonn during a ceremony to mark his departure.

"We will always be grateful for the help provided by the Federal Republic on the hostages' behalf," he said. Gerhard Ritzel, the German ambassador in Tehran, had been particularly helpful.

Turning to his host, Herr Genscher, Mr Stoessel, who was returning to Washington as an under-secretary to the State Department, said:

"You personally have played a leading role in bids to secure the release of our hostages."

The Bonn government, it was disclosed, had lent a hand at two levels. In Tehran Herr Ritzel had repeatedly and emphatically made representations to the Iranian government to secure the hostages' release.

Initially he had sought at least to get improved detention conditions and to arrange for visiting opportunities.

At a higher level Herr Wischnewski tried to arrange for the release of the US diplomats in Tehran, as did the Chancellor and his Foreign Minister.

This was done via Mr. Tabatabai, who visited not only the Chancellor's Office but also the Foreign Office while in Bonn (at the same time as Warren Christopher visited Herr Genscher).

Bonn also interceded via Ayatollah Beheshti.

Herr Genscher mainly discussed matters relating to the payment of ransom, eventually reaching a point at which the Algerians were able to take up a successful role as intermediaries.

Bernt Conrad

(Die Welt, 23 January 19...)

■ WORLD AFFAIRS

Haig response to questioning best clue to Reagan foreign policy

President Reagan devoted astonishingly little of his inaugural address to foreign policy. He dealt mostly with domestic problems and with giving his audience a moral pep talk.

But there could be no mistaking his basic approach to foreign affairs.

"Peace," he said, "is the most heartfelt desire of the American people. We will negotiate on it, bring sacrifices to it, but we will not subjugate ourselves on its account, not now nor ever.

"Our dislike of conflict must not be taken as a lack of willpower. If action is needed to preserve our national security, act we will."

How seriously must this pledge be taken and what may it mean for America's allies in particular? This is best deduced from the Senate hearings in which Secretary of State Haig was cross-examined.

Mr Haig strengthened his reputation of being an intelligent military man who is by no means a stranger to politics.

That is why he is surely the right man for the job and probably the best man available to direct the foreign policy of the Reagan administration.

After the Senate hearings there could be little doubt (always assuming anyone had any beforehand) that apart from the President he intends to play the crucial role in the new administration.

This alone indicates the far-reaching change in US foreign policy that in part, no doubt, has already taken place and for the rest must lie ahead.

The new US Secretary of State, and doubtless President Reagan too, is no longer concerned with a grand design for tomorrow's world.

President Kennedy was. So, more pragmatically, was President Nixon. So, at least initially, was President Carter.

But the foremost aim of the Reagan administration is to restore US military superiority over the Soviet Union. Arms and men under them are again the yardstick.

All other problems, such as arms control, human rights, environmental conservation, energy supplies, overpopulation, famine and above all aid to the developing world, are of lesser importance.

The new US administration considers handling confrontation with Moscow much more highly than whether and how the Soviet Union might be prepared to cooperate in solving worldwide problems.

This, of course, does not rule out negotiations on, says, arms limitation.

The change is evidently in keeping not only with the views of the new administration but also in accordance with what a large majority of US public opinion wants.

The change of mood became apparent shortly after President Carter's inauguration. One of the many effects it had was to prompt Mr Carter's increasingly tough line on foreign policy.

It was also a substantial contributory factor to Mr Reagan's overwhelming victory in the 1980 Presidential elections.

For both the government and the public of the United States the Soviet Union and communism are once more the Nr. 1 enemy.

They lie at the back of every crisis with which the Wet has to concern itself — at least in the minds of those who take a less subtle approach to world affairs.

What is more, this enemy is more powerful than America, in military terms at any rate, as far most Americans are concerned.

Secretary of State Haig can certainly not be thought of as a man who takes the less subtle approach to world affairs. For five long days he gave sophisticated and balanced answers to senators' queries.

Yet his view of the power relationship with Moscow is no less pessimistic than that of the general public.

He referred, for intance, to the "transformation of Soviet military might from a continental, mainly defensive, land army to a worldwide, offensive army, navy and air force fully capable of sustaining an imperial foreign policy."

This, he said, was "the most complete about-turn in power relations the world has ever witnessed in a period of relative peace."

Yet he, unlike many fellow-... men and many American politi... pecially among President Reag... porters, is also aware of th... Union's weaknesses.

Russia and its allies are in ec... difficulties. The non-Russian po... of the Soviet Union is steadily ... ing. Moscow's successes current... limited solely to the military secto...

This indeed is the real danger ... Haig sees it. In such situations ... an states tend to be susceptible t... sionary manoeuvres abroad as ... of maintaining their power at ho...

It is hardly surprising that h... more arms to counteract this stat... fairs. Yet at the same time he ... says he hopes) to negotiate ge... armament measures with Moscow.

This is the only context in wh... Haig feels there can be any point ... rying on with Salt talks.

It is alarmingly reminiscent ... Carter's first attempts in this ... spring 1977 and of the Soviet ... reply, but it remains worth co... tion.

The same is true of Mr Haig's ... to a query of whether the ... objective of US foreign policy ou... to be the prevention of nuclear w... between the United States and th... et Union.

"If we were to base our politica... sions solely on keeping the peace, ... important though it may be," h... "we might, I fear, trigger develop... that jeopardise this very goal, ... peace.

"There are things for which w... ricans must be prepared to fight."

This would hardly have come ... surprise had it been said by the D...

Continued on page 5

Time may again be ripe for superpower talks

Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko has expressed Moscow's interest in normalising ties with the United States. That alone says much about the current state of relations between the two superpowers.

Yet, there was a time when normal relations between the two existed, inasmuch as normal relations are possible between rival powers which are so different in so many ways.

And the relationship was normal enough for there to be talk of nuclear complicity between them.

The freeze set in again at a breathtaking rate after the Red Army invaded Afghanistan.

Objectively this deadline marked the end of the US-Soviet dialogue; subjectively the Soviet Union feels the turning-point in US policy occurred much earlier.

There is some truth in this. The change in US attitudes towards Moscow began long before Christmas 1979, but it did not become official policy until the invasion of Afghanistan.

To this day neither the Soviet media nor Soviet policy give any indication whether they have understood the reasons for the change in US outlook.

It was due less to the loss of No. 1 status in the world than to humiliations attributable to this loss of prestige.

The final humiliation was the taking of US hostages at the American embassy in Tehran, but humiliation began with the unrelenting exploitation of US failure in Vietnam by the Soviet-backed North Vietnamese Communists.

For Moscow, of course, this is merely the course of history. In the long term it is bound to win and America is bound to lose.

Unfortunately for the Soviet Union the Americans do not accept the inevitability of their defeat; indeed, they feel the aggressive communist ideology and the striving for progressive expansion of the Soviet sphere of influence can be contained.

The desire to do so, combined with the Communists' inability to ensure tolarable living conditions in the countries they control without substantial Western economic backing, makes this American assumption more than mere wishful thinking.

The Reagan administration has taken over, however, at a time when the Soviet leaders have felt lastingly stabilised in their power.

Moral condemnation of their intervention in Afghanistan has made not much of a dent in their position. The announcement of America's intention to become the world's No. 1 again is much more likely to do so.

But world peace could only be in real danger if the speechlessness of the superpowers were to continue, and neither is disinclined to start talking again.

Talk they must. If they fail to do so the time will come when they clash, and world peace still depends on being kept by Moscow and Washington.

For a long time yet China will not be a decisive power factor, while the Third World and the non-aligned countries can but provide the chorus of the starving and the powerless.

There is hardly a conflict in the world that does not begin without one superpower or the other being involved, directly or indirectly.

The oil-exporting states are, indeed, important, but only for their oil. To defend themselves they need arms from either East or West.

Unless there is a minimum of understanding between Moscow and Washington, tension everywhile will escalate. What form are future ties to take?

In 1972 President Nixon talked in terms of cooperation rather than confrontation. In recent years the two have been seen to combine; there has been both a clash of interests and cooperation.

The signs are that there will continue to be more confrontation than cooperation, especially if the West regains the power of self-assertion that Moscow has lately felt to be weakening and in a state of decline;

Moscow's relentless bids to capitalise on US weakness, as in Asia, or on Western scruples make it more difficult to revert to old-style cooperation.

Western scruples, for instance, include reluctance to supply friendly liberation movements with arms; the Soviet Union has no compunction in arming its allies.

Besides, the Soviet Union has made use of the detente era to amass one advantage after another in the military sector. There is an unmistakable tendency in the United States to contest these advantages.

But the crucial change in future relations between the superpowers should result from an end to all illusio... that the Americans have retained ... since their experience with Stalin.

US illusions, then, have not ... marked where Soviet intentions ... cerned, although some are sti... boured, but the Soviet Union still ... imagines it can continue to ho... the Americans and the West ... time.

Ronald Reagan may oblige the ... leaders to reconsider their views ... point.

Future US-Soviet ties will be ba... sober appraisal, balance and reci... in the wake of a period when the... grown emotional, unbalanced and ... sided.

The new look holds forth the ... bility of tougher confrontation an... limited cooperation. The Soviet ... seems likely to learn that its p... stands to be challenged once more.

Eduard Neum...

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 22 January ...)

The German Tribune
Publisher: Friedrich Reinecke. Editor-in-Chief: ... Heinz. Editor: Alexander Anthony. English ... sub-editor: Simon Burnett. — Distribution ... Georgine Picone.
Friedrich Reinecke Verlag GmbH, 23 Schoene Aussicht, Hamburg 76, Tel. 22 85 1, Telex: 02-14733.
Advertising rates list No. 13. Annual subscription DM 35.
Printed by Druck- und Verlagshaus Friedrich ... Bremen-Blumenthal. Distributed in the USA by: ... MAILINGS, Inc. 540 West 24th Street, New York, ... 10011
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In all correspondence please quote your subscription number which appears on the wrapper, between asterisks, above your address.

HOME AFFAIRS

Vogel nomination as Berlin mayor catches SPD on the hop

The news that he was to be nominated as the new mayor of Berlin ...ched Bonn Justice Minister Hans-...chen Vogel just as he was preparing ... play his part in a popular TV talk ...show in Bremen.

He asked the moderator not to make ... reference to the Berlin issue; and ... show went off without a hitch ex...cept that some might have noticed that Vogel was not quite himself.

The whole thing was unexpected, and ... upset SPD ideas. Many Social Democrats had hoped for a new beginning in this non-election year of 1981.

The party wanted to show that it was still alive and kicking; but instead it has ... been confronted with a foretaste of the problems in store.

The coalition has become destabilised; and some Bonn watchers consider that the SPD or its left wing or Willy Brandt ... Herbert Wehner or all together have ...nged up against the Chancellor and the coalition.

In any event, Brandt fears that Helmut Schmidt's Chancellorship days will ... numbered unless a bold attempt at ...bilising the party is made in Berlin. The decision in favour of Vogel as the ...ture mayor is such an attempt.

There can be no overlooking the ...mbolic aspect inherent in the fact that the entire top brass of the party made ...is decision during a protracted night ...sion in the Chancellor's official residence: *the Chancellor's* fate was at stake.

The party thus opted for the Chancellor's "crown prince" and, indeed, potential successor to any high SPD office.

Vogel's career — some speak of a comeback — is a minor miracle. The question now is: will it survive the Berlin ...? The conflicts in that city proved the downfall for such respectable mayors ... Heinrich Albertz and Klaus Schütz.

But Vogel's nomination has not totally defused the Berlin crisis and still imposes a burden on the Bonn coalition. Schmidt and Hans-Dietrich Genscher ... evidently finding it hard to paper ... certain deep rifts.

Naturally, the fronts between SPD ... FDP are not clearly defined. This ...plies in equal measure to the dispute ... the armament policy and the decision to revamp Nato as it does to the ...nded amendment of the arms export ...licy and the consequences that are ...und to arise from the conflict between high government indebtedness, ... balance of payments and growing ...employment.

The conflict between the two parties, ...ich could at some point lead to a ...al rift, has not yet reached its peak.

What is at stake is the future of the ...fare state at a time of diminishing ...wth rates.

A decision over the redistribution of ...ts will have to be made. The question is at whose expense this is to be ... and whether the concern over social justice should be left to market ...ces or whether this should be up to ... state.

The neo-conservatism of Economic ...airs Minister Count Lambsdorff is al... being praised by some sectors of ... CDU and openly opposed by parts ... the SPD.

The SPD in general finds that the government programme lacks typical SPD ...ures.

The left wing of the party, among them Karl-Heinz Hansen and Manfred Coppik, said after a secret meeting of their faction that they would no longer support an "anti-social democratic policy" in the Bundestag. They will be just individual votes in parliament but not in the party.

An erosion process has set in the federal states as well. In fact, except for Hesse, there is at present no intact social-liberal coalition outside Bonn — and this obviously has a destabilising effect on the Bonn coalition.

But even in Hesse it remains to be seen whether the Prime Minister, Holger Börner, will manage to weather the overall crisis.

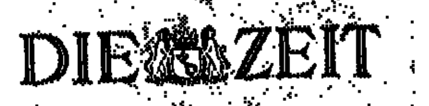
The subjects of the conflicts in Hesse are as symptomatic as is the attitude of the FDP.

The issues at stake are the nuclear energy policy and the planned expansion of the Frankfurt airport. The disputes over these issues have almost of necessity test cases that will determine the coalition's ability to govern.

The liberals have driven the prime minister into a conflict and are now sitting on a fence watching if unfold and toying with the idea of a new coalition partner — perhaps starting with the municipal elections in March.

In Berlin, too, the FDP seems to be watching the events unfold with a certain detachment and out of the line of fire.

And yet, the smaller of the two coalition partners played an important part in the Garski affair that triggered the Berlin crisis.



There are also problems the SPD has brought upon itself in Bremen, Hamburg and, of course, Berlin.

In any event, there is no boost for the coalition in store in any of the *Länder* and the same applies to the SPD as a party.

Willy Brandt recently sketched the framework for Bonn's policy with a few key words: diminishing growth rates in the Western industrial countries, a stepped-up arms race and developing nations. It would be surprising if such a set of circumstances did not lead to grave problems.

Among the other acute problems are the relationship with the United States, President Reagan's policy towards Latin America, the discrepancy between the arms policy and the need to disarm, the future of détente and arms experts to Chile and Saudi Arabia for economic and foreign policy reasons.

The SPD will have to come up with some answers. In fact, Willy Brandt intends — and there are some good arguments in favour of such intentions — to give the SPD a greater impact in seeking solutions. He warns against old recipes and against believing in political miracles and deplores the fact that politicians have evaded dealing with the problems of a post-oil era. What he wants is more economic democracy because the alternative would be a class struggle. The FDP has made many issues taboo by depicting the debate surrounding them as a "coalition question." On the other hand, the Chancellor also frequently fails to take action for fear of narrowing the government's scope. This has created the impression that policy-making now consists primarily in preserving the status quo.



Hans-Jochen Vogel being sworn in as Mayor of West Berlin. (Photo: dpa)

One of the biggest problems lies in the fact that there is a growing discrepancy between the expectations the SPD and its followers pin on the government and the stance of Chancellor Schmidt. He tends to depict all pondering on how to close the gap as lack of loyalty while Genscher simply sees it as an attack on the Chancellor by his party's left wing.

As a result, the government frequently loses sight of what is happening in our society.

Recently, the cabinet expressed surprise over the "pacifistic trends among the public" and deplored the possible consequences for the Bundeswehr and Nato.

But these trends are only harbingers of more to come: the protest movement against the peaceful use of nuclear energy could be followed by an even stronger movement against nuclear weapons and armaments in general — a movement that could prove as explosive as that of the 1950s.

The dispute over our arms export policy has nothing to do with left or right. It is by no means a coincidence that Annemarie Renger, Egon Bahr and Norbert Gansel find themselves in the same boat as Schmidt's opponents.

Convictions and party traditions play a role. But so does the fact that there has been a change in our society. Anything that smacks of militarism now meets with emotional opposition, as demonstrated by the riots over the public swearing-in ceremonies for recruits — something that took the government by surprise.

In a recent cabinet meeting, it was generally agreed that it is difficult to register public trends.

This was evidenced by the lamentations over the Berlin squatters. But what is the way out?

Hamburg Mayor Hans-Ulrich Klose opposes the construction of the Brokdorf A-plant, thus joining the ranks of the anti-nukes and growth opponents. All this places his government in grave jeopardy.

Hesse Prime Minister Holger Börner wants to provide storage facilities for nuclear waste and enlarge Frankfurt airport. He is thus among those who favour nuclear energy along with economic growth. And in his case, too, such a stance jeopardises his government.

All this only reflects conflicts within the SPD which have long existed among the public.

So far, the party has tried to overcome dissension through majority decisions while not going so far as to leave the minority out in the cold.

This is exemplified by the decision of the 1979 party congress in Berlin which boiled down to revamping Nato while at the same time negotiating disarmament. In another instance, the majority voted for a careful development of a network of A-plants — but only if this is the only way out.

This way of reconciling differing views becomes difficult when the left no longer considers itself an integral part of the party — as in the dispute over the revamping of Nato and nuclear power.

So far as the Brokdorf A-plant is concerned, Bonn intends to intervene should the Hamburg SPD refuse to give the green light.

Granted, those opposing the shoring up of our defences and nuclear power will remain in the minority. While the SPD was an opposition party it could well afford such a conflict within its ranks. But today this minority threatens its ability to govern because there is no way of bridging the conflict.

The fact that Hans-Jochen Vogel has such prominence in this SPD cannot be explained by the fact that the Justice Ministry had provided him with a relatively untroubled portfolio. He has displayed strength in other areas — especially by his splendid success as a mediator between party wings, cliques and factions as well as between the executive branch and the SPD as a whole.

The generation of the 50-year-olds has dwindled.

Apel, Wischnewski and Matthöfer, worn out by the SPD's 15 years in government, are suffering from many wounds.

And the younger generation such as Stobbe and Klose are sealing themselves off instead of bringing about a renewal in the *Länder*.

In many instances, this has nothing to do with ability but with the conflicts that are imposed on everybody who bears the burden of government.

The choice of Vogel as Berlin mayor was fortuitous inasmuch as he not only has a grasp of and is sensitive to social problems but also has considerable experience in municipal policy.

As a former Bonn minister for city planning and housing he has become something of a signal that the SPD is about to make another bid in this sector as it tried to do in 1972 — a time when it contemplated many domestic policy changes. All this came to nought due to

Continued on page 9

PERSPECTIVES

A time to remember the Forgotten American

George C. Marshall, the man behind the post-war European recovery programme that bore his name, would have been 100 years old on New Year's Eve. Marshall of the Marshall Plan was a general and a statesman. In 1939 President Roosevelt appointed him chief of the general staff, a post he held until 1945. From 1947 to 1949 he was US Secretary of State, from 1950 to 1951 Defence Secretary. In 1953 he shared the Nobel peace prize with Albert Schweitzer. It was one of many honours bestowed on him all over the world. For Germans Marshall was the man who substituted for the Morgenthau Plan a plan for European economic recovery and ensured the dollars needed to fund it. On 5 June 1972 the late Hans Roeper, economics editor of the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung from 1963 to 1978, wrote this leader to mark the silver jubilee of the Harvard address in which Mr Marshall outlined initial details of the plan that was to bear his name. It is as valid today as it was then and may well be of even greater current interest. Roeper's article is here reprinted slightly abridged.

In all countries there is a widespread inclination to condemn the Americans out of hand. Young people in particular see the United States as an incarnation of imperialism.

The Vietnam war undoubtedly contributed much towards the deterioration of US prestige, yet even before Vietnam the Americans were anything but popular abroad.

The slogan Go Home Ami (Ami is German slang for Yankee) was coined long before-hand — in the immediate post-war period.

The Americans themselves are not entirely blameless; they have often had much to answer for on account of their brash, shirt-sleeve approach.

But the other motive, envy and ill-will on the part of smaller, weaker countries, is no less powerful.

The Americans, like any other nation, have their good and bad points. Yet nowadays only their shortcomings are pilloried and not a mention is made of their good qualities.

The American renowned for a generosity and readiness to lend a hand unparalleled anywhere in the world has been completely forgotten.

Yet, as British sociologist Geoffrey Gorer points out, "in no other country is a majority of the public prepared to give as readily and as gladly, almost without counting the cost.

"The Americans donate cash with utmost generosity to any cause deemed worthy; in many cases donations are made at great personal sacrifice."

The Americans have indeed done ever so much to eliminate hardship and shortages all over the world, and they still head the list of industrialised countries in their aid to the developing world.

They continue to invest heavily in military protection of Western Europe. It was they too who in the aftermath of the Second World War helped a Europe destroyed, hungry and bleeding from countless wounds to get back on to its feet with the aid of the Marshall Plan.

Even wartime enemies Germany and Italy were included in this generous programme of assistance, whereas the Russians ruthlessly plundered the countries they had occupied and annexed.

In the Soviet zone of Germany, for instance, they dismantled and shipped to Russia entire sections of railway track.

Now that young socialist zealots are pouring nothing but fire and brimstone on the Americans and have naught but admiration for the Russians it behoves us to show fairness and gratitude and recall the truth of the matter.

On 5 June 1947 US Secretary of State George C. Marshall first mentioned in a speech to Harvard University the aid programme that was later to bear his name.

Referring to catastrophic conditions, especially in Europe, he said: "Logically the United States must do everything that is in its power to contribute towards a return to normal economic conditions.

"Without them political stability and safeguards for peace are impossible. Our policy is not directed against any one country or point of vie but against hunger, poverty, despair and chaos. Its aim is to restore an efficient world economy.

"It would, however, be neither appropriate nor effective for the government of the United States unilaterally to set up a programme aimed at getting Europe back on to its own feet economically. I feel the initiative must come from Europe."

The Americans thus laid the groundwork for integration and economic cooperation and, in the final analysis, for the EEC.

On 12 July 1947 delegations from 16 European countries met in Paris to from the Committee on European Economic Cooperation.

It later became the Organisation for European Economic Cooperation, the forerunner of the present Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The Soviet Union, which had also been called on to take part, declined to do so and obliged the other East Bloc countries, which would have been only too happy to take advantage of US aid, to follow suit.

In September 1947 the 16 West European countries submitted to the US State Department their first comprehensive report on measures urgently in need of financial backing with US assistance.

Between 1948/49 and 1952 the Americans raised roughly $13bn in Marshall aid, of which 70 per cent, or well over $9bn, were envisaged from the outset as non-refundable.

Rich though America may have been, Marshall aid was a genuine sacrifice; $13bn amounted to about eight per cent of average annual US Federal government tax revenue.

Even before Marshall aid, between 1945 and 1948, the United States donated, granted or loaned other countries nearly $20bn.

This consisted mainly of Garioa deliveries; first aid from Washington to areas occupied by US forces (Government Appropriations for Relief in Occupied areas) especially food, seed, medical supplies and fuel.

The Federal Republic of Germany benefited from Garioa supplies to the value of roughly $1.7bn and a further $1.3bn in Marshall aid — a combined total of roughly $3bn.

Only $1bn was scheduled for repayment, which was made ahead of schedule in 1961, while the deutschemark equivalent of the remaining $2bn was used to set up the Bonn government's



George C. Marshall (Photo: ...)

European Recovery Programme sp... fund.

To this day revolving credits ... ERP funds are issued for econ... promotion measures in Germany.

What is more, the Americans not ... made us a gift of the Marshall ... they also made a decisive contrib... towards economic and poli... integration in Europe.

In lending energetic support to ... European Payments Union they ... European currencies to go conve... They were also instrumental in se... up the IMF, the World Bank and G...

These organisations laid the gro... work for restoring free world trade ... its enormous economic recovery.

We must always remember how r... America did for Europe after the wa... comparision with this generosity and r... liness to help, today's carpers and ... ligners cut a very poor figure.

The helpful American, always rea... extend a helping hand, must not b... gotten.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine ... für Deutschland, 20 January ...)

Bonn farewell for US ambassador

Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher assured outgoing US ambassador Walter J. Stoessel on 22 January that "the United States can rely on the Federal Republic of Germany just as we rely on the United States."

This reliability, he said, included on Bonn's part President Reagan and his government being able to count on Germany when it came to upholding peace and freedom by firmness and not forfeiting them by means of weakness and lack of determination.

Mr Stoessel, who was US ambassador to Bonn for more than four years, has been appointed under-secretary for political affairs by Secretary of State Haig.

At a final dinner held at short notice in his honour at the Redoute in Bad Godesberg Herr Genscher, who had just returned from Rome, said the departing US diplomat was a firm friend of Germany in general and Berlin in particular.



The outgoing American ambassador, Walter Stoessel, receives the Grand Order of Federal Merit from Karl Carstens, President of the Federal Republic of Germany, during a farewell ceremony in Bonn. (Photo: dpa)

"We are unhappy to see you leave," he said. "You know how much sympathy you have gained here. You will be leaving many friends behind. "The key post to which you are returning for the drafting and implementation of future US foreign policy is some slight consolation for your departure from Bonn." Herr Genscher had this to say about ties between Washington and Bonn in general: "Friendship between the United States and the Federal Republic of Germany is a cornerstone of relations between Europe and America. It is one of the essenti... which democratic parties in this c... are agreed."

He also stressed the significa... comprehensive mutual consulta... the current critical internationa... tion:

"The determination and closed ... of the West in jointly facing p... challenges are of crucial importan... a future in peace and freedom."

Mr Stoessel in his reply reaffirme... key role of German-American ties ... lations between the United Stat... Western Europe. A new spirit w... said, in evidence in the United Sta...

"It will be a spirit of cooperatio... you. Secretary of State Haig know... rope well and greatly appreciates i... may count on him and on me."

Turning to Herr Genscher he ... with a smile:

"You must be the busiest F... Minister I have ever known. You ... hard man for an ambassador to k... with, but you do it all with great ... cacity and we admire you."

Hans-Dietrich Genscher's co... was that an ambassador who succe... kept up with the pace in Bonn wa... ly good, and Walter Stoessel had ... ly done so.

This view is universally shared ... Foreign Office and the Chan... Office. At a tough time in ties ... Bonn and Washington, Mr Stoess... the greatest respect on all politica... Bernt C...

(Die Welt, 23 January ...)

LABOUR

New industrial safety legislation in bid to lower accident rate

Some 2 million people a year are involved in accidents at work and about 5,000 are killed.

Bonn is so concerned that legislation on industrial safety is being prepared.

The figures are "a most embarrassing balance sheet for a highly developed country" says Dr Josef Rainer of the metal industry employers association.

He and his organisation have been trying for years to improve the nation's safety record. Their "Cologne model" that promotes the establishment of industrial medicine centres is generally considered exemplary as is their accident prevention work as a whole.

Dr Rainer: "Initially, industrial safety costs money — the employer's money. So the only way of convincing employers of the soundness of the investment would be to take pencil and paper and prove it in the light of figures."

But this is not easy because no book-keeping department keeps records on who is absent due to illness and who as a result of an accident.

And then there are the invisible costs: the time spent to go to a doctor, the consequent diminished output and the pay for a stand-in.

As a result, most figures are estimates; but even so it is fairly certain that the annual loss to the nation's employers amounts to about DM10bn. Added to this is the DM35bn to DM40bn cost to the national economy as a whole (hospitalisation, rehabilitation, etc.).

Eighty per cent of our employers, says Dr Rainer, tend to overlook the fact that industrial safety is a highly profitable item in any feasibility study.

Siegfried Felten, safety engineer in a medium sized company: "Whenever the work force of a factory is busy trying to meet an important order safety engineers find it difficult to muster the support of the foremen on the factory floor. And when confronting the management with the necessity to instal costly noise abatement equipment the inevitable question is whether the few decibels will really make all that much of a difference."

Even so, the blame should not too hastily be put on the employers. While the work force tends to blame accidents on inadequate safety provisions, the employers put the blame on carelessness.

"My own experience shows that most accidents are not due to technical shortcomings but to carelessness or wrong handling of equipment by the workers themselves," says Herr Felten. "These accidents are either due to negligence on the part of the worker himself or to an inadequate organisation of the work process."

Both employers and safety engineers complain about the maze of legislation that has to be observed in day-to-day operations.

This is also how Bonn Labour Minister Herbert Ehrenberg sees it: "What works council member or safety engineer has the time to go through the daily output of ordinances? As important as such regulations might be, they lose much of their effectiveness by being written in legalese and thereby being unintelligible to most people."

Even so, Ehrenberg praises his Ministry's work for industrial safety which, he says, "made a great deal of progress in the past few years."

There have indeed been successes. The number of accidents and occupational diseases has gone down by about 20 per cent since 1970. Fatal accidents diminished by as much as one-third. Yet the overall figures are still much too high.

Chancellor Helmut Schmidt mentioned industrial safety only in passing in his latest government policy statement. He merely announced that the Bonn Labour Ministry would present a comprehensive bill on industrial safety.

But the work on the bill is still in its early stages, as Herr Ehrenberg's Ministry frankly admits. In fact, the Ministry has get no clear idea what the bill should encompass.

A first draft will probably be presented in the second half of the year. Nobody dares at this stage to predict when the bill will be enacted — especially in view of the fact that there it is likely to contain a fair bit of political dynmaite.

Even though little is known about the form the bill will take, Ehrenberg himself gave some indication when complaining about "the overlapping of government trade supervision authorities, guilds and trade associations and industrial legislation plus the Industrial Safety Act and its provisions, which leads to unnecessary friction and falls short of the requirements of a modern industrial safety concept."

Both employers' organisations and the trade unions hold that the present division of labour between government authorities, the guilds and the works councils should not be tampered with.

Dr Rainer: "Any such move would meet with the resistance of all concerned in the private sector."

The trade unions are now also convinced that the present division of labour should be left as is.

Though the unions deplore the poor state of industrial safety, they hold that the remedy cannot be to increase government influence in this complex matter.

Still, the German Trade Union Federation (DGB) considers that new legislation could lead to improvement.

The DGB hopes that present legislation will be extended to include public sector workers who now do not fall under the provisions of the trade acts. The unionists would also like to see more clarity in the texts of legislation.

But above all, the legislation's "quality" must be improved. Present rather general and therefore and not very binding provisions should be clarified and made more stringent — especially regarding the effects of places of work on the workers' health.

The employers make no bones about the fact that they expect few concrete improvements from any new legislation.

According to them, new laws are not as important as imparting more safety consciousness in the labour force itself along the lines of traffic safety instruction in schools and kindergartens.

Virtually all top business exectives, says the DGB, have a training in law or business administration but know nothing about industrial safety.

The same applies to mechanical engineers and, indeed, to works council members as well who are likely to give priority to cafeteria matters over safety.

Works council members who try to draw attention to most basic safety provisions usually wind up being rather unpopular.

The Americans are much more safety conscious and their favourite phrase "safety first" extends well beyond their place of work. *Hans-Willy Bein*

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 17 January 1981)

Continued from page 2

...Secretary, whereas from a Secretary of State one would have expected a qualified affirmative.

The proviso might, for instance, have been that although prevention of a nuclear holocaust was of paramount importance one must not leave a potential adversary in the dark as to how one would respond in the event of conflict.

Other points in Mr Haig's submissions to the Senate could likewise be discussed at length, and it is reassuring to note that he has repeatedly offered America's allies the opportunity of doing ...

This offer has been made more expressly and more credibly than by any previous US administration.

Europe ought to grasp the opportunity even though it is no longer a matter of ... of the well-nigh visionary concepts such as used to be proclaimed by successive US governments. *Hans Gerlach*

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 21 January 1981)

Exploitation of children is widespread

Major illustrated magazines are quick to run stories about foreign children being sold into slavery for DM100.

But they ignore scandals at home; for example the fact that 13-year-old school children in this country are too tired to do their homework because they have to help their farmer parents in the fields.

The press do run some stories on the subject, such as one about an innkeeper who was fined because he made his 12-year-old daughter serve his drunk patrons at night.

Once in a while, the newspapers also report on children carrying bags of cement on construction sites or girls being made to scrub toilets. But the general assumption is that child labour is virtually non-existent in this country, and some even try to prove this with figures.

In 1979, Bavaria's authorities registered 325,000 labour law violations. But only 102 companies are on record as having used child labour.

And should such violations come before the bench they are treated as misdemeanors.

One judge, after fining someone for employing child labour, said that he, too, had had to work on a farm during his summer school holidays.

But there is a difference whether a child is hired for menial work or whether somebody uses his own children to save labour costs. It is hard to draw a clear line, which makes it difficult to remedy the situation.

The amended Child Labour Act of 1976 is generally not taken very seriously in this country. This is particularly so in those branches of business that have to work late at night, in the early morning hours or on public holidays. They generally consider the Act as non-existent.

A nation-wide survey involving 1,000 apprentices in hotels, restaurants, bakeries and butcheries came up with 4,200 violations on various counts. They included: up to 18 working hours a day, weekly working times of up to 80 hours and up to six hours of night work.

The situation is likely to have deteriorated since the survey was made because apprentices are in short supply. This is particularly so in the catering business where the shortage of personnel is so acute that the industry is demanding a lifting of the ban on hiring foreigners. And since there is not enough trained adult staff, apprentices are thrown into the breach.

The lot of children who had to work in mines and factories throughout Europe in the 19th century is remembered only as history. But this type of child labour still exists in many parts of the world, as shown by ILO statistics.

Ten-year-olds work in Asian textile factories or cart heavy loads in Latin America or work as street shoeshine boys in Africa. There are more of them than the population of countries like France or Britain.

Experts estimate that some 52 million children under 15 lead a life reminiscent of the slavery of bygone days.

Various UN organisations have been trying to help, but even optimists know that is is a hopeless task.

Legislation banning child labour would not only totally useless in the Third World, it would only increase misery. Families depend on their children's work to eke out a meagre living.

A team of experts had established that the family income in Indian slums is about DM100 a month of which 25 per cent is provided by working children.

But since even this is not enough to maintain a family at subsistence level, banning child labour would only make things worse.

As a result, experts favour legislation that would restrict child labour to simple and harmless work.

However an entirely different situation exists when children in an industrial nation are made to work with welding equipment or do other dangerous work. Unfortunately, this is extremely difficult to control.

Efforts to do so usually founder on the employers' greed and their obtuseness about safety at work.

The ILO has evidence that millions of children work for starvation wages even in highly developed industrial countries.

Though this does not apply to the Federal Republic of Germany, here, too profit is frequently more important than humanity.

What other explanation is there for the fact that piece-work contracts for work to be done at home are such that the necessary quotas can only be met if the whole family, inclusive of children, helps out. Moreover, the wages paid for such work are frequently below the legal minumum. *Norbert Sturm*

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 17 January 1981)

■ THE ECONOMY

Jobless queue grows as business orders drop

More than 1.1 million people started this year without a job — 30 per cent more than a year earlier. And more than 30,000 went on the dole in December.

The president of the Federal Labour Office, Josef Stingl, had no choice but to attribute this to a "general economic downturn".

And there is no sign of a silver lining in the immediate future. The influx of orders, one of the early signs of what is in store for the immediate future, dropped sharply in November.

Orders were down 6 per cent against the same month the year before. It was primarily German buyers who accounted for this trend — a clear indication that their view of the future is more pessimistic than that of Economic Affairs Minister Count Lambsdorff.

To make matters worse, there is little consolation in the fact that the slump will at least check inflation. Though coffee, herrings and cabbage were cheaper last December than in the same month of the previous year, cream and cucumbers sold for the same price as a year earlier.

On the other hand, petrol, heating oil, coal, gas electricity and other products that have a major bearing on the consumer's pocketbook soared, making the inflation rate for 1980 5.5 per cent.

If this trend continues, the forecast of a 4 per cent inflation rate this year will prove to be wrong.

The bad news that kept coming in in the waning months of 1980 did not find the nation unprepared. Attentive observers noticed that our economic pundits became less and less optimistic as 1980 drew to a close.

Only last autumn, the Bonn government, buttressed by the figures provided by the Council of Economic Advisers, said it was convinced that our economic performance would improve in 1981, though the growth rate would be no more than 0.5 per cent.

The economic research institutes, on the other hand, were considerably more sceptical and forecast zero growth.

Only six weeks after the institutes' report (this is prepared jointly every spring and autumn), the Munich-based Ifo Institute amended its forecast, saying that the 1981 GNP would drop against the previous year.

Another three weeks later, the Institute for the World Economy in Kiel came up with the bleak prediction that the drop in the growth rate would amount to as much as 0.1 per cent.

And only a few days ago the German Institute for Economic Research in Berlin (DIW) came up with an even worse forecast.

But all this must seem like outright optimism compared with the prognosticators of the Platow Information Sheet who anticipate a growth shrinkage of a huge 3 per cent (adjusted for inflation).

If this were to materialise even Count Lambsdorff would have little choice but to speak of a recession. In 1975, a crisis year, the downturn in the growth rate was only 1.8 per cent.

The Platow analysts proved last year that they knew what they were talking about when they predicted a growth rate of only 1.5 per cent for 1980. They and the Kiel-based Institute for the World Economy came closest to the real figure: 1.8 per cent.

Notwithstanding the swiftness with which the pundits amended their forecasts downward, none believe in a protracted crisis. They still consider that there will be a turn for the better during the year.

The question is: what must happen to make this hope come true?

There are essentially two factors that are responsible for the problems: the dramatic oil price increases and the high interest rates imposed by the Bundesbank.

There is nothing to indicate that the oil situation will improve in the near future, nor is there anything to indicate that Opec will relent in its constant price increases.

The assumption that the oil price rise will not outstrip the price increases for industrial goods (it is on this assumption that the economic research institutes based their autumn forecast) is pretty naive.

In its latest forecast, DIW operates on the assumption of a slight improvement in the second half of the year and presupposes stable oil prices. If this is the basis on which such optimism rests we are in for a rude awakening.

DIW pins its hopes not only on the kind heartedness of the sheikhs but also on the Bundesbank which it expects to loosen up on its tight money policy. Only if interest rates go down, they argue, will the business community be prepared to invest.

But the Bundesbank policy makers have to dance to the tune called by Washington. Since the US Administration must combat inflation, American interest rates are kept at a high level. And if interest rates in Germany slide below a certain mark, foreign investors will naturally take their money to America. This would mean an outlow of foreign exchange from Germany — the very money needed to offset our balance of payments deficit.

1980 and 1981 – downswing years in the economic cycle

Percentage economic growth

1979 1980 1981 (est.)

Japan +5.9 +5 +3.5; France +3.2 +2 +1; Austria +5.2 +3 +0.5; Fed. Rep. of Germany +4.5 +2 +0.5; Britain +1.7 −2.5 −1.5; Italy +5.0 +4 −1; Holland +2.6 +0.5 0; Switzerland +0.8 +2.5 +0.5; United States +2.3 −1 +1

Moreover, the deutschemark exchange rate against the dollar has come under pressure, which means that our imports that must be paid in dollars (such as oil) become more expensive and kindle inflation.

German exports, on the other hand, become cheaper. But unfortunately this is unlikely to boost exports because — unlike the 1974/75 recession — business ist none too good in the buyer countries either.

At that time, the economy in the neighbouring countries had not yet slowed down, and as a result our export figures soared, making a record DM 51bn surplus in the balance of payments.

In view of all this, the business community has little reason to hope that the Bundesbank will take the foot off the money brake.

Nor is the state likely to come up with a shot in the arm. Not only have Keynesian booster methods gone out of fashion theoretically, but in practical terms, too, past government programmes to shore up the economy failed to prove their worth.

And even if this were not so, the state coffers are empty.

Since there is no hope of government booster programmes, we must pin our hopes on determination by the business community.

Only if our entrepreneurs summon the courage to invest and so secure the competitiveness on international markets and open up new markets can the vestige of optimism that remains prove warranted.

But exactly this determination is uncertain. Though polls conducted at the end of last year by the Institute for the German Economy showed that, unlike Count Lambsdorff and some research institutes, the business community does not expect an upswing later this year, the respondents could have said so with an eye to the forthcoming round of collective pay bargaining.

After all, it is still uncertain whether the trade unions will be reasonable and settle for moderate wage increases.

On the other hand, such key sectors of industry as automobiles, mining, chemicals, mechanical engineering and oil have said that they would step up investment. If they keep this promise and if other branches follow suit the country will certainly not be faced with a major crisis — even should there be no growth for some time.

Wolfgang Gehrmann

(Die Zeit, 16 January 1981)

Export decline sharper than anticipated

Germany's export trade is likely to decline in the next few months more than was anticipated.

Despite the depreciation of the deutschemark, industry's order books indicate that the world-wide decline in demand is making itself felt.

Growth rates have slumped in most industrial countries, and it is these countries who buy 75 per cent of German exports.

The boom at the beginning of 1980 in other industrial countries was a flash in the pan. Yet the economy of the Western industrial nations did not actually stagnate that year. There was a growth rate of about one per cent.

Pundits say that the main reason for the decline is the restrictive economic policy due to Opec-generated high inflation rates and balance of payments deficits.

High interest rates and a restrained fiscal policy despite growing unemployment have delayed investment decisions. The minimal increase of private consumption also did not help matters. Here, it was the higher oil bill that did the curbing.

Economists agree that inflation rates will decline worldwide. But it will still remain at about 10 per cent, which is unsatisfactory.

The balance of payments deficits of the OECD countries are expected to drop from their 1980 level of 75bn dollars to 45bn this year.

But this is not enough to impart growth.

Hope now rests with lower interest rates in the second half of the year.

Experts expect nothing more dire than a stagnation for the West. So far as world trade is concerned, this would mean a 2 per cent decline.

The Middle East conflict has buttressed the sceptics in their views. The Iran-Iraq war means that the two countries, once important customers, are now no longer buyers on the world market.

The conflict also increases uncertainty over oil prices, and it is unlikely that the Opec countries will recycle their petrodollars by buying German goods as they did after the first oil shock in 1974.

Trade with the East Bloc is also not exactly giving rise to optimism, although it is expected to remain static.

The demand for German goods in the Third World is high, but unfortunately those countries don't have enough money left after oil bills and debt servicing.

Only if we can provide the finance along with the goods can we still do business with them, say many experts.

Still, prospects for German exports are better than for those in other nations. This is largely due to a relatively high degree of investment abroad where many businesses are investing in energy-saving measures. And it is exactly in this sector that German equipment enjoys an excellent reputation. But this is unlikely to be enough to stop the decline.

The German Institute for Economic Research in Berlin now anticipates that exports will decline by 5.5 per cent against the first six months of 1980.

But since the second half of the year is expected to bring a 3 per cent growth in the export sector the annual decline will be around 1.8 per cent.

In the two previous years, German exports rose by 5.5 per cent annually. They thus by far outstripped overall economic growth.

There are no such hopes for this year.

Hans-Jürgen Mahnke

(Die Welt, 17 January 1981)

MONEY

Troubles force Commerzbank to sell shares, pay no dividend

Commerzbank (Germany's third largest privately owned bank and number 15 on the world list) is in the throes of a crisis.

For the first time in Germany's post-war banking history, a major bank will pay no dividends.

And for the first time a major German bank has had to sell one of its most important possessions, in this case the Commerzbank's block of Kaufhof shares. (Kaufhof is one of Germany's largest department store chains).

As if this were not enough, the bank is also faced with a personnel problem in the top echelon. Chairman Robert Dhom had to resign due to severe illness, and there was no suitable successor among the other board members.

In fact, it was also not possible to find a successor outside the inner circle. So the bank gave the job to Paul Lichtenberg, 69, who had been at its helm for close to 20 years until four years ago when he became chairman of the Supervisory Board. He accepted the position only as an interim measure until a permanent successor to Dhom is found.

The crisis is a symptom of structural changes that, after industry and the retail trade, have now come to the banking business as well.

An era of expansion and prosperity in the German banking has come to an end, as some British newspapers correctly observed recently.

The restrictive monetary policy of the Bundesbank in 1979/80, which has clearly hurt the banks, is not the only explanation.

"The reasons lie deeper," wrote the chairman of Dresdner Bank, Hans Friderichs, in a newspaper article.

The demands placed on a bank's executive board grow disproportionately in difficult times and so does the danger of taking a wrong step.

Germany's three biggest banks have come out of the fray differently, as borne out by the splendid performance of Deutsche Bank. Dresdner Bank, on the other hand, lost some of its stride while Commerzbank actually stumbled — which makes one think of Goethe who wrote to the effect that stumbling on even ground is just a joke; but a wrong step on the edge of a precipice is deadly.

Much has been written about the Commerzbank's omissions. Essentially, they can be summed up as a wrong assessment of the interest rate trends and wrong credit policy decisions which were worsened by the fact that, like Dresdner Bank, Commerzbnak has fewer cheap savings and sight deposits relative to its overall volume than does Deutsche Bank. This meant that until very recently Commerzbank was forced to resort to expensive money markets for its refinancing needs.

Moreover, Commerzbank bought too many fixed interest rate government bonds at a time when industry was barely interested in credits.

Furthermore, expansion was too fast and the management was not thrifty enough. This was aggravated still further by problems in the top echelon, especially because the relationship between Dhom and Lichtenberg was anything but harmonious.

The roots of this problem date back to the Hanns Deuss era, when Deuss made day-to-day policy decisions notwithstanding his position on the Supervisory Board. (The Supervisory Board has essentially a control function.)

As a result, there was little esprit de corps among the Executive Board members. And this could also have been responsible for the fact that none of the members was able to develop into a natural successor to Dhom.

This type of difficulty has existed at other big banks as well, but they are particularly pronounced at Commerzbank.

Lichtenberg is a tried and proven practitioner, representing a good bit of the bank's tradition.

His prime tasks now will be to find a suitable chairman for the Executive Board, motivate the Board and the staff as a whole and redraft the business policy to make it more profitable and reduce costs.

Lichtenberg has not come up with any major blueprints but simply wants to improve day-to-day business.

In his view, there are so many possibilities to make money in our banking system that, given a reasonably stable economic development, Commerzbnak will soon assume its old role again.

Two things can already be taken for granted: there will be no more expansion for the time being and Commerzbank will show restraint in financing the government. The latter is a decision that requires political courage.

Lichtenberg was right in saying that too much is being said about his bank's weakness and too little about its strength, let alone its very considerable assets.

It remains to be seen whether his hope of paying dividends next year will materialise. But only once this happens will the public discussion involving this bank be silenced.

There is no reason to dramatise the situation of Commerzbank. The general commotion over the bank's poor profits is only due to the fact that the major banks had for years come up with splendid balance sheets.

Of course, nobody knows what role the dissolution of socalled hidden reserves, which is allowed under German balance sheet regulations, played in this success story.

In any event, the major banks thus appeared absolutely unshakable regardless of the ups and downs of the economy.

American banks are far from enjoying such a position. There it is in no way unusual for banks to make mistakes and have their ups and downs, as demonstrated by the Chase Manhattan Bank in the 1970s.

After years of prosperity, this type of things has now come to German banks as well; and Commerzbank is only one example.

J. Jürgen Jeske

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 14 January 1981)

Americans modify proposals to regulate foreign banks

There are tough times in store for the subsidiaries and representative offices of foreign banks in the United States.

Some observers expect that the Republican Senator Jake Garn, who will head the Senate Banking Committee, will cause a certain amount of problems for foreign banks in America.

Moreover, the Federal Reserve Board under its president, Paul Volcker, is likely to keep a tighter rein on foreign banks, though certain compromises are in the offing.

Foreign banks have been operating in the United States since the second half of the 19th century. The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation was the first British bank to start operations in New York (1879).

After the Second World War, European banks followed in the wake of industry that settled in America.

The foreign banks caused a considerable stir in the past few years by take-overs such as that of the Crocker National Corporation, San Francisco, by the Midland Bank, London.

Such take-overs enable the foreign banks to use the newly acquired organisation's branch network to corner deposits without clashing with American banking laws.

The 1927 McFadden Act prohibits banking operations across state lines. Its intention was to protect small regional banks.

The same restriction was imposed on foreign banks through the 1978 International Banking Act.

But the Act contains a clause that permits those branches to operate that were established before 26 July 1978.

According to a study relased by the General Accounting Office, foreign banks control about 15 per cent of America's bank assets. In some areas, such as the industrial credit business, foreign banks have cornered an even larger share.

The German banks in the United States are not particularly worried by Senator Garn's plans to protect smaller banks from further take-overs.

Those German banks that need a US branch are meanwhile well established in the places that seem interesting to them.

What does worry them is the Federal Reserve Board which wants to subject foreign banks to the same regulations that apply to domestic ones in yet another respect: They are to provide the Federal Reserve Bank with the same information on their business, including that of the parent company, as must domestic banks.

This information includes the structure of profit, reserves and similar items.

Wquities in other banks or commercial institutions must also be disclosed.

The Federal Reserve Bank also expects to be given details of companies in which the banks hold equities of more than five per cent.

All this goes against the grain. The German banks hold that this jeopardises bank secrecy and runs counter to banking laws in Germany.

A delegation of German bankers presented this view to Volcker last October. They told him that this went far beyond the information expected from them by the Bundesbank and that there was no way of ensuring that the information given would remain confidential.

The Freedom of Information Act, the German bankers argued, provides Americans with an access to such information.

The Board has meanwhile modified its ideas, especially in view of the fact that the German objections were endorsed by British, Japanese and Swiss bankers.

According to the newspaper *American Banker*, Volcker now by and large expects only the information required by the home country's central bank. He has also undertaken to treat this information as confidential.

But the Americans still insist on one piece of information not required by the Bundesbank: the amount and structure of hidden reserves. The Board stresses, however, that Section 8 of the Freedom of Information Act permits this to be withheld from the public.

The Board has waived the necessity to disclose equities held by executive staff members.

It is doubtful whether the American proposals will meet with much favour among German bankers. They still resent providing more information than they have to give to the Bundesbank.

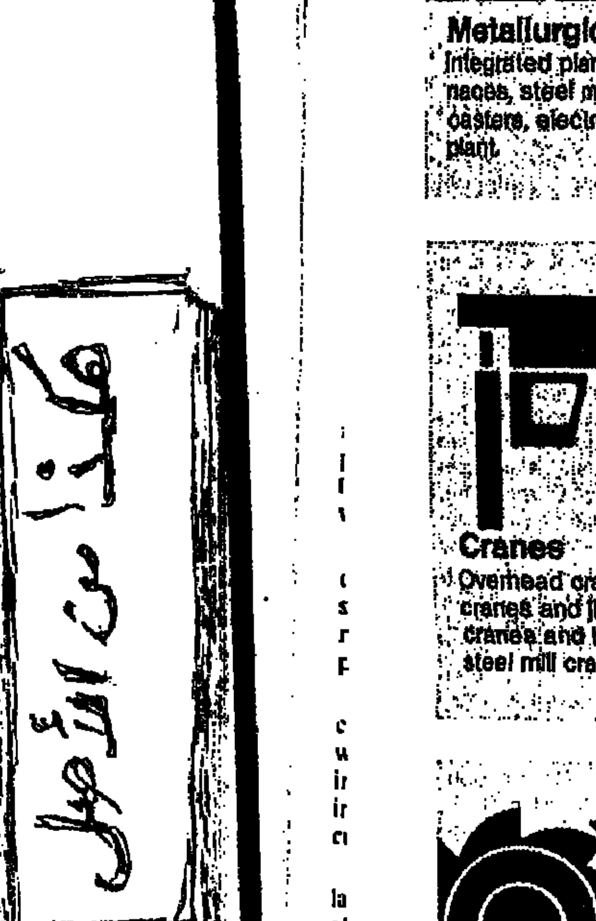
And even this they would prefer not to do directly. They would want to give the information to the Bundesbank which could then pass it on. They hope that this will make for more secrecy.

Michael A. Gotthelf

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 13 January 1981)

The following banks maintain branch (B) or representative (R) offices in New York: Bank für Gemeinwirtschaft (B), Bayerische Hypotheken- und Wechselbank (B), Bayerische Landesbank (R), Bayerische Vereinsbank (B), Berliner Handels und Frankfurter Bank (B), Commerzbank (B), Deutsche Bank (B), Deutsche Genossenschaftsbank (B), Dresdner Bank (B), Hessische Landesbank (R), Vereins- und Westbank (R) and Westdeutsche Landesbank (B).

In addition, Deutsche Bank (together with five other European banks) has an equity in the European-American Bank and Trust Co. and the European-American Banking Corporation. The representative office of Hessische Landesbank was upgraded and is now a full-fledged branch. In addition, German banks have equities in the following investment corporations: ABD Securities Corporation (Dresdner Bank, Bayerische Hypotheken- und Wechselbank, Atlantic Capital Corporation (Deutsche Bank), BHF Securities Corporation (BHF Bank), Europartners Securities Corporation (Commerzbank), First Bavarian Capital Corporation (Bayerische Vereinsbank) and Helaba American Corporation (Hessische Landesbank).





RESEARCH

Hamburg accelerator opens up new fields in particle experiments

amburg's Hasylab synchrotron research laboratory is unlike conventional particle accelerators: it is not de ned primarily for fusion research.

This new electron storage ring is to for research purposes a feature pre ously regarded as an irksome by-pro uct: the high-intensity light emitted as rticles hurtle round their circuit.

Synchrotrons and electron storage s were indeed originally built exclu ely for experiments in elementary rticle physics. But in recent years their portance for other research sectors s steadily increased.

They emit a source of light with such variety of unusual properties as to en up new prospects of research in any fields.

Electrons as they compete in their h-energy race around the circuit emit h-intensity light where they are forc by magnetic fields to turn corners.

The spectrum of this light ranges m infra-red to X-rays. Yet synchro n radiation used to be classified as a esome and expensive waste.

It was an energy loss that had to be placed on the straight, where particles ained speed, the main objective for rposes of elementary particle research.

For many other research purposes this te is extremely valuable, however. chrotron radiation is used in nuclear molecular spectroscopy, solid-state arch and the study of surfaces and s.

an also be used to analyse the ture of crystals, synthetics, molecu complexes and biological substances h as muscular fibre.

Further uses include microscopy with X-rays and the manufacture of elec ic micro-circuits. The Hamburg la tory significantly improves experi ntal capacity in all these fields.

Synchrotron radiation has a number useful properties. It is high in inten , powerfully bundled and polarised. It opens up the soft X-ray and va m ultra-violet sectors of the spec .

ey are not readily accessible via entional sources of radiation and thus not been adequately research .

synchrotron also generates much e X-ray light than conventional X-ray , so X-ray examinations need not anywhere near as long.

en a succession of events in time, as structural changes during mus contraction, can thus be followed X-ray as it happens.

Yet the advantages of this source of tion have not, for the most part, available to the extent to which were in demand.

ers of synchrotron radiation had to dinate their requirements to those ementary particle research scientists. were regarded more as parasites as research users of equal standing.

equently they were no more than ted and had little influence on the ting conditions of accelerators and ge rings.

hen it grew apparent that synchro light opened up more varied re h opportunities, the demand for mental facilities rapidly increased. a number of countries storage rings



have been built solely to generate synchrotron radiation and no longer for use in elementary particle research.

After initial research at Bonn University the Hamburg electron synchrotron, called Desy, began using synchrotron radiation in 1964.

The Hamburg particle accelerator had just been completed. A small research laboratory was built alongside it for ancillary purposes.

This research has been steadily expanded and in a number of sectors Desy staff established an international lead. X-ray experiments, for instance, began in Hamburg earlier than anywhere else.

Synchrotron radiation is not merely of interest to physics; it is also invaluable for biological research.

In 1972 the European Molecular Biology Laboratory, Heidelberg, set up a laboratory of its own at Desy. It dealt with the structure of biological matter and came up with highly-regarded findings.

Research using synchrotron radiation was given a substantial boost in 1974 when Doris, the second storage ring, was inaugurated in Hamburg.

Due to the high electron current and stability experimental conditions at Doris are far better. Doris was fitted out with several measurement facilities used by Desy staff and working parties from universities and research institutes of various kinds.

The Heidelberg molecular biology laboratory set up a second lab at Doris, while in 1979 the solid-state research institute of the Fraunhofer Society followed suit.

In collaboration with the semiconductor industry the solid-state research scientists are experimenting with ways of manufacturing extremely small electronic circuits.

To meet the growing demand for synchrotron radiation an expert commission recommended building a small storage ring for soft X-ray light, or vacuum ultra-violet, and a second ring generating 3 GeV, or billion electron volts, for hard X-ray radiation.

This recommendation was made early in 1977, and the smaller installation, christened Bessy, short for Berlin Electron Storage Ring for Synchrotron Radiation, is currently under construction.

Its first trial run is scheduled for December next. Plans for a new 3-GeV unit have been shelved, however; instead, Doris is to be enlarged and expanded.

Over the past two years a large experiment hall has been added to Doris where six rays from the storage ring flow through.

Using mirrors they are so divided and diverted as to enable synchrotron radiation research to be conducted at 25 measurement desks simultaneously.

This, then, is Hasylab, supervised by Professor C. Kunz of Hamburg University and Desy's E. E. Koch. It also includes a laboratory and office block where staff are housed and experiments can be prepared.

Hasylab, financed by Bonn and Hamburg, cost DM14.4m. Doris is now used only to a limited extent for elementary particle research, too.

This means not only that more research facilities are now available for other research but also that more time is available for other experiments.

Much of the equipment is supplied by working parties from various universities and research institutes. The Heidelberg molecular biologists, for instance, will man three places in the new hall.

More than 50 working parties are associated with the composition and preparation of experiments. They include som from abroad, especially the Scandinavian countries.

Hasylab will concentrate mainly on X-ray research, since Doris is so much more powerful than conventional X-ray facilities with its high-intensity radiation and bundling of light rays.

Its many research tasks will include structural analysis of solid-state matter, biological material and liquid crystals. The structure of crystals can be established by means of characteristic X-ray reflections.

Changes that occur when molecules in a liquid crystal suddenly arrange themselves in a more regular structure can also be ascertained, for instance.

When polyisobutylene, a synthetic material, is stretched to several times its normal length crystallisation processes take place that can be followed via changes in diffraction patterns.

Similar research is conducted into muscle fibres and collagen.

Important findings about structure can also be made from X-ray absorption. Each element absorbs radiation at a specific wavelength. At higher energy the fine structure of the absorption spectrum sheds light on atomic make-up.

In respect of a single element, such as iron, cobalt or copper, the number of neighbours the atom has can be found out; their distance from the specific atom can also be established.

An insight is thus gained into the inner make-up of chemical molecules — proteins, for instance.

This process can also be used to analyse the structure of catalysts, metallic glass or absorbent layers on surfaces.

Several years ago Hamburg began to take microscopic pictures with the aid of X-rays. Processes developed by various working parties do not, of course, attain the high degree of resolution reached by an electron microscope.

The advantage, however, is that no preparation is needed. Biological objects can be studied while still alive.

Importance is also attached to spectroscopic experiments in the vacuum ultra-violet sector. Not only rare gases and simple molecules such as carbon monoxide and nitrogen are analysed, either; so are organic compounds, semiconductors, metals and other solids.

The spectra are an image of the electronic structure and internal compound conditions. Additional information is supplied by analysing so-called photoelectrons, which are separated from matter by high-energy quantum light.

Since these electron come from various depths, depending on the energy in question, the process is suitable for analysing surfaces and thinly absorbed layers, for instance.

Synchrotron radiation can also be used to take a closer look at the processes that occur when ultra-violet solar radiation is absorbed in the upper atmosphere.

The ionisation and fission of normal gas molecules is of interest in this context. How, for instance, are the fluorine hydrocarbons from spraycans, which are suspected of jeopardising the ozone layer, reduced in the upper atmosphere?

These examples provide but an incomplete picture of the many research uses to which synchrotron radiation can be put.

Hasylab should benefit so many disciplines and working parties that it will, hopefully, be utilised to the full extent and operations not have to be restricted on account of the spiralling cost of electric power.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 21 January 1981)

Vogel nomination

Continued from page 3

FDP opposition and a certain lethargy in the party's own ranks.

It might not be a bad byproduct of the crisis if it were to turn out that the "special political unity" in Berlin was more important to some Bonn politicians than the Berliners are prepared to believe.

It should not be too hard to find a passable justice minister. This applies particularly to the present education minister, Jürgen Schmude, who has made a name for himself due to his restraint, competence and astuteness.

But there more difficult problem is to find a successor for the many other offices Vogel held.

Within the cabinet, he was a very special minister with a special political temperament; and many — including Schmidt probably — considered him a possible chancellor.

If Vogel, 54, remains as successful as he has been so far, he will not have lost much by leaving Bonn. The only one whom he could not succeed should he retire in the autumn on reaching the age of 75 is SPD Floor Leader Herbert Wehner.

The Berliners might not be unhappy to see Vogel nominated as chancellor. And then there is the possibility of Vogel as the SPD party chairman — or is there such a possibility? The present chairman, Willy Brandt, 67, is determined to hang on for another four years. At least, he does not want to be the first of the three heavyweights to go.

It this remains to be seen whether Vogel can succeed Brandt — especially now that Bonn is so unstable and nobody wants to think beyond tomorrow.

Vogel's spontaneous acceptance of the Berlin nomination — and that without any guarantees for the future — honours him. The SPD made a swift and right decision from which it has received a boost.

Says one politician: "Vogel has shown that he's got character."

This is the stuff politicians should be made of. As Helmut Schmidt sees it, they must be fellows you can rely on.

Gunter Hofmann

(Die Zeit, 23 January 1981)

■ THE PERFORMING ARTS

Gobert spares nothing for theatre reopening

Now the Schiller-Theater has reopened after a six-month closure for renovation, Boy Gobert, the new general manager of West Berlin's municipal theatres, can lay claim to run the largest German-language stage empire.

To mark the occasion he spared neither trouble nor expense, manpower nor material, music nor masquerade in staging Peter Zadek's dramatisation of Hans Fallada's *Jeder stirbt für sich allein* (Everyone Dies On His Own).

The artistic result of this enervating presentation is limited and dubious, but Zadek's attempt to combine shock and glamour effects with conventional stage scenes commands respect.

The bid to sell a deadly serious topic of recent history to a grateful theatregoing public keen to enjoy a night out deserves respect.

So is the risk taken in going for theatrical candour rather than continuing dressed and made up to look the image of Hitler.

With effects such as these, which were more than likely to prompt applause in acknowledgment of the shock they cause, it is obvious that bad taste cannot be used as a stick with which to beat this production.

Good taste would have been much less suitable as a means of portraying Nazi horrors — and even more embarrassing than such clear-cut cases of the mark being overstepped.

The most striking contrast is between Zadek's courage to bring on the heavy artillery and Savary's attempt to drug the audience rather than educate them.

There are at least four tales being told simultaneously: the vaudeville scenes, the resistance plot, viewed both from the working class home and the Gestapo office, and the *kitsch* scenes of the Goering family at Karin Hall, the Reichsmarschall's country estate, starring Sabine Sinjen as Goering's wife Emmy. Then there are five scenes featuring the author, Hans Fallada, written by playwright Hartmut Lange. Hilmar Thate, the superb actor who also plays Eno, a small-time crook, here plays the part of the author. In front of his public he is confronted with the well-known fact that in the early days of Hitler and Goebbels, before he reverted to anti-Facism, he opportunistically embraced the Nazis. The cast deserve the highest praise, not only Thate but also Bernhard Minetti, Angelika Domröse, Erich Rath and others.

Working on anti-Nazi postcards in 'Jeder stirbt für sich allein'.

embarrassment on a number of matters relating to Hitler that are still largely taboo.

Yet it is doubtful whether the shock effect envisaged is really accomplished, so much turbulent fun being aimed at the audience.

Hans Fallada gained international acclaim with his 1932 novel *Kleiner Mann, was nun* (What Now, Little Man?), which dealt with the First World War.

Shortly before his death in 1947 he completed his final novel *Jeder stirbt für sich allein*, the tale of a working class Berlin couple between 1940 and 1946.

In their helpless rage at the Nazis' crimes they clandestinely distribute anti-Hitler slogans printed on postcards.

Distinguished director Peter Zadek, in association with Gottfried Greiffenhagen, has dramalised the novel in 63 scenes, a mammoth production lasting more than five hours.

Vaudeville scenes were staged in collaboration with Jerome Savary of the Grand Magic Circus. The storyline, midway between contemporary tragedy and the penny-dreadful, is interspersed with satirical impressions of the period.

One scene is entitled The Nazis Are So Sexy. The cast includes Sergio de Paris, transvestite star from the Folies Bergere. There are a dozen stepdancers

But the outstanding actor was Otto Sander, intensely cool, calm and collected as a Gestapo inspector and also, intermittently, a clownish Hitler figure.

The sets were designed by Dieter Flimm, a professional, and Berlin painter Johannes Grützke, the mannerist of the *Neue Prächtigkeit* school. Here he is a monumentalist, and at times satirises the idyllic. The music is supervised by Erwin Bootz, formerly pianist to the legendary prewar vocal group the Comedian Harmonists. Is the resistance angle merely a convenient opportunity to present an impressive spectacle designed to entertain the public or is

Continued on page 15

production.



Transvestite in 'Sexy Nazis' scene. (Photo: ...)

Bernstein inspiration behind 'Tristan und Isolde' success

Leonard Bernstein, the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra and the cast were overwhelmed with applause for their unusual start to Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde* in Munich.

After what amounted to a public dress rehearsal the first act of the opera was given its much-vaunted multi-media premiere in the Herkules-Saal of Munich's *Residenz*.

In a largely concert-type performance the US conductor and composer inspired the orchestra and cast.

Bayerischer Rundfunk broadcast the first act live on TV and in stereo on the radio.

Against the background of a gigantic sail the cast, dressed in demure costumes, sang the tale of Tristan's sea voyage from Ireland to Cornwall.

Bernstein, 62, began the opera, first produced by the composer in Munich in 1865, with an extended love's longing motif in the symphonic prelude that already presaged the longing for death.

Hildegard Behrens was outstanding as Isolde but Bernstein could pride himself on having assembled an outstanding cast including Peter Hofmann as Tristan, Yvonne Minton as Brangäne and Bernd Weikl as Kurwenal.

Leonard Bernstein and Hildegard Behrens, Isolde in this production. (Photo: dpa)

Tristan is an extremely difficu... ner opera to put on, and the Be... production is to be released on ... and, if everything goes as the p... filmed, probably next year.

A TV film is also being made ... hard work that went into the rehe...

Despite evident efforts by the ... team, the multi-media *Tristan* ... testified to the concert-hall appr... opera production as screened on T...

The sparing gestures and mov... of the protagonists in this, a ... without the *cup of poison* and the ... son cupboard, made a decidedly ... impression on Bavarian TV scree...

Later viewers all over Germany ... able to see and hear for themse... nonetheless undeniable quality ... production, which is to be scre... instalments.

Later this year Bernstein is to c... ue his work with the Bavarian ... Symphony Orchestra, which Rafa... belik has led to international stan...

On 27 April and 10 Novembe... Two and Three of the opera are ... staged and screened live in the ... manner, with a live audience and ... taneous viewers and listeners at ho...

A concert performance is to b... two days beforehand. It eases the ... on the cast, enables them to give ... ir best and is more in keeping ... marketing as appropriate to the ...

By means of rehearsals Bernstei... to ensure that the overall impre... of a continual performance ... breaks.

The hard work put in by Be... and his associates was unmista... rehearsal. The conductor and his ... appeared tired and drained of en... a press conference held after a ... lasting several hours to outline th... ject.

There has lately been talk of a ... ner renaissance, but 1981 loo... being mainly a *Tristan* year. It w... duced at the Bavarian State Ope... year and now it is Bernstein's tur...

At Bayreuth on 25 July the W... festival will open with a *Tristan* ... by Daniel Barenboim and ... Ponnelle.

There is also a new recordi... of the opera conducted by Carl... ber.

Hanns-Jochen K...
(*Nordwest Zeitung*, 18 Janua...)



■ MEDICINE

'Economic waste' to hold back on latest surgery facilities

The author, Professor Günter Thomas, heads the Work Group for Operating Theatre Hygiene of the German Society for Orthopaedics and Traumatology.

Only 200 years ago, the amputation of a limb came close to being a death sentence. The danger lay not in the surgery itself but in the post-operative gangrene, a bacterial infection occuring in more than 50 per cent of cases.

The Vienna obstetrician Ignaz Semmelweis was ridiculed by fellow doctors for insisting on washing hands before any kind of surgery.

Since then, sterilisation procedures of everything and everybody have been developed.

The skin of the patient in the immediate vicinity of the area to be operated is sterilised. So are the hands and arms of the surgical team and all instruments as well as the operating theatre itself. The surgical team wear sterile gowns.

Yet the medical profession has not succeeded in reducing the rate of post-operative infection in standard operating theatres below 5 to 12 per cent.

Though antibiotics succeed in controlling most of these infections, the physical damage to patients whose hopes of a quick recovery have been dashed and who suffer irreparable side effects is immeasurable.

What is measurable is the direct and indirect cost to the national economy caused by such complications.

But must we accept this as inevitable? Not at all.

The British surgeon Jeseph Lister suspected as far back as 100 years ago that much of this post-operative infection is due to airborne bacteria in the operating theatre.

Modern air conditioning techniques now means virtually sterile air in the theatre.

The technique — a byproduct of space technology — is used not only on medicine but in many other fields as well.

All rooms that house people contain an enormous concentration of bacteria that are released into the environment through breathing or simply from the skin. The number of these bacteria can be measured with great exactitude.

Two things must coincide to achieve maximum sterility in an operating theatre: the release of bacteria from people must be reduced to a minimum and the air conditioning installation must provide the room with a flow of air strong enough to "rinse out" what bacteria remains.

To ensure the former, as few people as possible should be in the theatre. This is done by constructing a cubicle that houses only the operating team and the patient. The heads of both patient and team is outside the cubicle.

To reduce the release of germs through the skin, the surgical team wears special, hermetically sealed clothing resembling the suits worn by astronauts. A window in the hood gives adequate vision. And the breathing air of the team, which is full of bacteria, is sucked out through the clothing.

This procedure has been practised for years in many hospitals in this country and abroad. Originally, many surgeons complained that their field of vision was inadequate and that they were excessively hot under this protective clothing.

But the objections were dropped as the doctors gained more and more practical experience in working under these conditions. Now, the heat in the suit is sucked away along with the exhaled breath, making the surgeon feel more confortable than in conventional surgical gowns.

All this has led to a marked reduction of post-operative infections.

Following a suggestion by the German society for Orthopaedics and Traumatology, a German-Swiss team of experts carried out a four-year survey of the sterility of air in operating theatres.

The study shows that the air in an operating theatre without air conditioning contains an average of 3,000 bacteria per cubic metre.

An air conditioned theatre constructed along standards now used in all modern hospitals reduces this figure to 250 per cubic metre.

But optimal sterility, i.e. a count of 0 to 10, can only be achieved by a "clean environment" technique.

A work group of the German Society for Orthopaedics that calls itself Work Group for Operating Theatre Hygiene has for the past five years been trying to convince the government authorities of the necessity of introducing such highly sterile operating theatres for particularly infection-prone types of surgery such as that involving transpants, severe burns, fractures, joints and, above all, the implantation of artificial joints.

In economic terms, it is outright waste not to introduce such facilities. The argument that this would be too costly does not stand up to scrutiny. After all, four out of five patients now threatened by post-operative infection and disability could be spared this fate.

Granted, the financial outlay would be considerable. But experts have figured out that the cost resulting from the disability due to post-operative infection of a 35-year-old working person is immeasurably higher.

A hospital with an emergency operating theatre handling an average number of accident victims has more than one such case of post-operative disability a year, and the installation of a maximum sterility theatre would thus pay for itself in less than a year.

But quite apart from financial considerations, we should not accept avoidable illness and disability for countless people.

It has never been denied that the rate of post-operative infection is in direct proportion to the number of bacteria in the air of the operating theatre. Statistics are conclusive.

But there are also statistics that treat the term post-operative infection rather lightly, giving rise to the wrong conclusion that the same surgical results can be achieved with less costly installations or indeed without air conditioned theatres at all.

Must we put up with the fact that, despite having repeatedly been told that the latter statistics are wrong, (and are shown to be wrong by facts) people like North Rhine-Westphalia's labour and social affairs minister still hide behind these sham arguments?

In doing so, they are trying to create the impression of weighing pros and cons when the intention is to economise. But who is responsible for the fact that we continue to tolerate bodily injury through negligence? The doctors in the operating theatre are forced to act against their better knowledge. They are unable to prevail upon the authorities to remedy the situation. Even countries that are generally considered backward in this sector of medical hygiene have officially tried to bring about reforms. In this country we use "clean environment" technology in pig raising while denying it to people. (Die Welt, 17 January 1981)

X-ray automation

The new Siremat X-ray unit, from Siemens: expos... developed and dried automatically, then rushed by ... belt to the doctor's desk for scrutiny. The entire proce... two minutes. After several years of research, developme... trials the unit is now being used in X-ray wards. (Photo:...

Tomography techniques 'nee... to be standardised'

Doctors are trying to internationally standardise procedures for computer tomography.

Computer tomography is an X-ray technique introduced 10 years ago which helps disease diagnosis by giving a clearer picture of internal organs.

Its use has been made more advanced by the use of radiopaque material, or dyes which are resistant to radioactive rays such as X-rays.

More than 220 experts from 20 countries attended a symposium in Berlin with the aim of standardising procedures.

The delegates came at the invitation of the Free University of Berlin and the Schering Pharmaceuticals company.

Most of the papers read dealt with the question of when and how radiopaque material should be administered. This can differ from organ to organ.

A study by German universities shows that brain tumours can be detected in 94 per cent of cases using radio tomography techniques.

When radiopaque material, or dye was used in the process, the detection rate stepped up to 98.6 per cent, according to Professor Ekkehard Kazner of the Free University's Neurosurgical department.

Before the advent of computer tomography brain tumours were difficult to detect, Professor Kazner told the meeting.

He said that the study showed that improved results with radiopaque material was because it penetrated tumours and blood vessels and showed up in the tomography picture.

Strokes could also be diagnosed in this manner.

Originally, delegates heard, doctors believed that computer tomography could manage entirely without radiopaque material because the picture is based on a "sausage" principle. The human body is shown in lateral rather than longitudinal sections, layer by layer.

As a result, organs and tissue... picted on one plane only as op... the traditional longitudinal X-ray... organs located behind each other... as gallbladder, liver and kidney, ... as an overlapping and hence pro... unclear picture.

But in the past few years doct... found that the use of radiopaque... rial in computer tomography ... and even clearer picture.

According to Professor Rola... of the Free University's Radiolog... there is a difference in the way ... que material penetrates healthy ... cased tissue. This facilitates the ... noses of pathological processes ... tumours, edema, inflammation, ... bleeding, etc.

This applies particularly to the ... nosis of pathological changes ... head.

Professor Kazner said there ... ever, much uncertainty as to the ... which radiopaque material sh... used, in which quantity it should ... jected into the blood vessels and ... intervals this should be done.

Virtually every clinic hand... slightly differently. Therefore, ... tures obtained in various clinics ... fered and led to differences of ... tation.

"We must learn to use rad... material as a selective instrum... diagnosis," Professor Felix sugges...

He said he realised that ... standardisation will never be achi...

But the Berlin symposium has ... theless led to a certain reconcilia... opposing views.

As a result of the meeting, ... tables will be prepared to show ... most of the participants apply ... que material for various tissue ... organs. The objective is to co... diagnostic methods. *Dieter Di...*

(Der Tagesspiegel, 18 Janu...

PUBLISHING

Advice and escape in the glossy world of teenage magazines

Eight million glossy magazines for teenagers are sold every month in West Germany.

One publication, *Bravo*, is read by between three million and four million every week.

Sales strategy in this field demands that the readership, girls and boys between 12 and 17, is inundated with pictures of film stars, both established and rising. The magazines are crammed with them.

Articles and pictures are jumbled together to create an illusory world aimed at distracting the reader from everyday problems.

The longing to become star one day is a feeling often provoked.

And the stars are marketed with this in mind. Being a film star is everything. Nothing else counts. School is unimportant and can be ignored.

Teen pop star Desirée, of Luxembourg, is quoted as saying:

"Last year alone I missed three months of school. I wanted to transfer to a grammar school but in the end we all decided it would be best if I left school altogether."

The world of the stars must never seem unattainable. *Bravo* helps. The annual election of the *Bravo* Boy and the *Bravo* Girl mobilises thousands of teenagers — and no wonder: the ten best-looking of its readers get their pictures in the magazine. And every year the readers choose the most popular star. The prize: a meeting with the star himself.

Bravo helps in other ways too, devoting several pages a week to an agony column where it gives advice on love and life. It gets weekly sackfuls of mail from disoriented teenagers.

Dr Sommer, the columnist, has an answer for everything. In very urgent cases, teenagers can even phone up.

Help and advice sometimes go beyond the limits. Though it is not stated explicitly, it is suggested throughout the magazine that sex among teenagers is the most normal thing in the world. It runs photo-stories showing erotic scenes between attractive girls and boys.

The aim is to reinforce dreams, stimulate fantasies.

Whether this really helps the youngsters who read the magazine is a horse of a different colour.

Popcorn and *Rocky* promote a similar philosophy, though their sales are nothing like as high as those of Bravo. The layour and the content are similar: crazy pictures of crazy groups on coloured glossy paper. *Rocky* also contains good quality posters.

All these magazines suggest to their teenage readers the importance of being with the trend, of having up-to-date information on what is happening in the music business.

The only problem is that most reports and stories are chosen and coloured in terms of the magazines' sales strategy. Many readers realise this. *Mädchen* — motto: Becoming a Woman is Exciting — forms a contrast to the gaudy, confusing style of the pop music magazines. Its articles range from young fashion and cosmetics to novel experts and readers' stories, with a few articles on stars and records and, of course, a correspondence column. *Caprina*, another magazine for teenage girls, is similar in content, with additional articles on knitting, cooking and furnishing.

Modern music fans tend to read two magazines that are very different from the teenie magazines mentioned above.

Sounds is a music magazine which reports on all kinds of good quality music and "ahead of the times."

The target readership is those with a serious interest in modern music, so *Sounds* avoids gaudy effects and huge colourful pictures of the stars.

Among its readers are grammar school pupils, students, the self-employed and many from the alternative scene.

Sounds also carries articles on books, the film scene and culture in general.

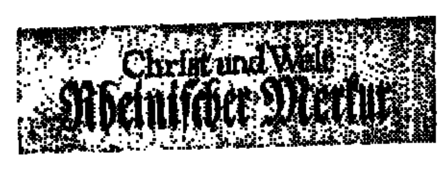
Musik-Express, also a magazine aimed at the more demanding, is similar in tendency. Use of star pictures is sparing, leaving more space for the introduction and presentation of records.

Other magazines appealing to teenage

Continued on page 14

■ MODERN LIVING

'More help needed' for mothers with careers



The problems surrounding motherhood for a modern, emancipated career woman are sorely in need of a solution.

The solution cannot be to have no children. Nor can the solution be to banish women trained for a career to life at home. This would be greatly unfair.

Children are soon grown up and the woman of today has a life expectancy of 74 years. She should therefore not be condemned to waste her training. Yet once she has been out of a working life for 10 to 15 years, employment can be difficult to get.

To prevent this, policy makers should have dipped deep into the till and paid our young emancipated mothers for their work in the service of the child. They should have given her certain privileges to enable her to resume her work.

They should also have established further training courses that mothers could have attended in the interim.

Only this kind of action would have been in keeping with the findings of international research to the effect that the care for a child by one specific person in the first two years of life is of fundamental importance for mental health and stability in adulthood.

Like a plant, the human being must strike root if it is to grow. We have known this for the past 30 years.

Policy makers in this country keep overlooking this. They feel entitled to engage in "pilot schemes" with children, using them as guinea pigs, so to speak, in an attempt to test facts established by international research.

Babies and small children have been shuttled back and forth between their working mothers and day mothers paid for by the state.

The experiment was intended to encompass five years and lead to clear results. But this was based on laymen's ideas.

The results do not become evident until after the age of 16 and they include susceptibility to suicide, mental instability, narcotics, aggressiveness, crime and loneliness.

Notwithstanding protests by responsible scientists, the policy makers went ahead with their experiment. After a number of optimistic interim reports on the "splendid integration" of the babies due to the daily change of environment and the persons looking after them, the closing report has led to a rude awakening, proving the warnings right.

Many children reacted to this daily routine with behavioural disorders, crying fits, insomnia, eating problems and, in some cases, closer ties to the day mother than to the natural parent.

Despite intensive care by the day mother, most of the children displayed conspicuous behavioural patterns even after two years of such care.

These behavioural disorders were not restricted to the time spent with the day mother but were in evidence at home as well where the children reacted neurotically.

The actual switchover imposed a particularly severe mental burden: many children cried when having to leave either of the two persons looking after them. Yet none of this led to discontinuation of the experiment.

Instead, those responsible pointed to short term, pseudo-scientific successes, and this led to a generally positive assessment by the media.

The initiators of the project even went so far as to try to achieve the same standard for these children as among family-raised children by selectively promoting individual children, especially in cases where they lagged behind in their development or showed behavioural disorders.

But notwithstanding all this, such disorders are common among these children.

An unpublished section of the final report shows that the consequences of the adjustment problems were still in evidence two years later. The report states: "It is obvious that this was a traumatic experience that must be taken seriously."

Surprisingly, however, the conclusion in the report is not that this type of child care should be discontinued but that it should begin as early as possible. The report says: "Only if the child experiences more than superficial contacts with changing persons looking after it as early as in the first year will it be able to establish close person-related ties."

In other words, the conclusion — despite evidence to the contrary — is that what may not be cannot be. In fact, those responsible still speak of the system as being correct.

This confronts confused parents with a dangerous pseudo solution because it is doubtful, to say the least, whether these children will ever be able to lead constructive lives.

Instead, they could well become an additional and costly burden on the state — and that on top of the cost of the pilot project for which the taxpayer had to fork out close to DM11m.

But what will be the ultimate cost once these children come of age?

Christa Meves

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, 9 January 1981)

Magazines

Continued from page 13

and older readers are satire and slaps publications *Mad* and *Klamauk*.

Both contain plenty of nonsense readers who have no use for serious formation or just want to relax laugh.

They ruthlessly expose and ridi human weakness.

Familar TV personalities are exp to ridicule. The reader is not ex either, being called a fool for wa money on the magazine.

Many readers probably have d about their wisdom in buying o publications — but enthusiasm and light in reading them lower their cri capacities.

Klaus Wagn

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 10 January 1981)

Alcoholism on the rise among the young

Alcoholism among children and juveniles is on the rise. Even 10-year-olds have been known to take hip flasks to school with them as a liquid substitute for the midday sandwich.

School janitors complain about the empty bottles they have to remove from corridors and waste paper baskets.

These children and juveniles drink in groups in order not to become outsiders, and discotheque owners organise drinking contests.

On his 11th birthday, little Erwin went to the cellar as he had seen his father do many a time and picked up a litre bottle of wine.

"You can't have a birthday without a drink," he told his friend, and so the two emptied the bottle.

When Erwin showed the effects and could no longer stand on his feet his friend dragged him to a nearby stream to shove his head in the water and sober him up.

The friend, also unsteady, went home and Erwin fell into the water and drowned.

There is hardly a fun fair or other popular festivity where minors are not amid drinking adults, and cases of alcohol poisoning are the order of the day.

There are some 150,000 juvenil coholics in this country; 40 per cen 14 and 15-year-olds drink regularly. in a 1974 survey commissioned by Bavarian Interior Ministry, one out four 12-year-olds said that they took quour several times a week.

The situation is unlikely to b changed in the seven years since t Eight per cent of 12 to 14-year-olds drink hard liquor almost daily.

They find it at home or buy it i permarkets, despite laws forbidding sale to minors.

A recent experiment showed that 11-year-old could go to a supermar and buy a bottle of rum, no questi asked. In fact, the checkout girl helped him wrap his parcel.

Bonn Health Minister Antje Hu together with the German Brewers sociation and the Catering and Bu Business Associations, have launched veral campaigns to enforce the law ning the sale of alcohol to minors. the results were negligible.

The drinking pattern of girls an creasingly similar. According to the varian survey, the difference betw drinking girls and boys in the age g between 12 and 14 is only 10 per cent.

Experts say that it will only ta couple of years before there are as m young women drinking as young me

This means that the number of drinkers, and hence the number of dangered persons, keeps growing.

It is generally known that alc abuse in children and juveniles lead severe physical, mental and emotio disorders.

Only three grammes of alcohol kilo of body weight can be lethal schoolchild. One glass of wine cont between eight and 12 grammes of hol.

Even moderate but regular consu tion of alcohol can be extremely dan ous to children.

Small quantities over a long p can lead to cirrhosis of the liver.

The mother who recently told friends that she gives her 3-yea child a glass of schnapps to put him sleep when she and her husband to go out in the evening should rem ber this.

Günter Do

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 15 January 1981)

Children who choose to live away from home cannot force their parents to support them. This is the effect of a ruling by the Federal Court in Karlsruhe in a precedent case.

Parents win child cash test case

In the case, the Family Affairs Panel of the Court ruled in favour of a father who had refused financial support to his daughter who had rented an apartment in the city where she attended university.

The father had offered his daughter full room and board at home plus cash.

The Panel said that the law curtailed the parental discretionary powers regarding maintenance inasmuch as the custody courts on the child's application could reverse the parental decision if special circumstances made this necessary.

But other than that the parental decision is binding.

This also applies where "special circumstances" exist that could warrant a departure. As a result, the curtailment of the parental authority must be restricted to cases where parental support in the manner chosen by the parents is not feasible for legal or practical reasons.

In all other cases, the child must apply to the custody courts in a bid to obtain a reversal of the parental decision if he does not agree with it.

In this particular case the daughter had applied for a government study allowance under the Federal Training Promotion Act (generally known by its German acronym BAföG).

The allowance was granted and the BAföG authority approached the father for reimbursement on the grounds that "his authoritarian decision" to allow no alternative to providing his child with room and board at home was unreasonable and that the daily commuting time to university would have amounted to close to three hours.

The Panel upheld the father's refusal to reimburse BAföG.

According to the ruling, the father's decision to provide his daughter with full support at home was binding for BAföG as well.

The justices also held that this type of commuting was not intolerable and did not necessitate moving away from home.

The Panel said that the parental right to provide support in kind also serrved the purpose of "enabling the parents to exercise greater influence over their child's lifestyle than they can do if the child lives away from home."

Rainer Klose

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 14 January 1981)

SPORT

Skiers protest as race takes heavy toll

Only 39 of the 60 starters in the 41st Hahnenkamm downhill race in Kitzbühel finished. The rest failed to make it in an orgy of falls which were screened on German television.

Many say that the event should not have been held because of the conditions.

There was too much snow, fresh on the ground, which is fine for the average skier, but not for downhill racers.

"Utter madness," said Austria's Karl Schranz, a former downhill world champion.

"After falls during practice, the race ought never to have been held; or at least it should have been abandoned."

As they hurtle downhill at express speeds, the slightest error in soft snow can be far more dangerous than over packed snow.

For this event, one day's training had to be scrapped. As a result, according to West German Michael Veith, who did not compete because of injury, there were just not enough practice runs.

Yet the schedule, largely predetermined by TV, was observed to the letter. "We were pushed for time," said organiser Willi Eder.

Kitzbühel spends DM650,000 on the event and the sponsors will only chip in if their advertising has been seen on TV. The jury was unmoved by the falls and decided to carry on to the bitter end.

The winner was Canadian Steve Podborski in 2min 3.76 sec.

A long way behind him was Sweden's Olympic gold medallist, Ingemar Stenmark, who came 34th, nearly 11 seconds slower.

"That," said Stenmark, "was my first and last downhill race." He is a slalom specialist.

He explained that he was unable to go all-out because of the conditions: "I wasn't going to run any risks.

"I was worried about the steep slope. I felt sure I would come a cropper. The only reason I entered was because of the combination points."

The honest Swede combined the good luck and the ability to emerge unscathed from a race in which one competitor after another came unstuck.

One of the casualties was Bojan Krizaj of Yugoslavia, who said with a swollen black eye and blood issuing from facial injuries:

"Never in my life have I had such a fall. The face was too difficult for me. There will definitely be no more downhills for me this season. I shall concentrate on the slalom and the giant slalom."

The most spectacular falls at speeds of 100km/h (60mph) were screened the same afternoon by the second channel of West German TV.

More than 1,000 viewers rang to complain within a short space of time. They just could not stomach the pictures on their TV screens.

The downhill ski circus is steadily being decimated. There has been a succession of injuries in recent weeks, some serious.

Uli Spiess of Austria, the winner at Val d'Isère; Leonhard Stock, the downhill Olympic victor; Anton Steiner, who was in the running for World Cup winner; and Canadian downhill ace Ken Read are all out for the rest of the season.

Veith and Austrians Sepp Walcher and Werner Grissmann, are among many others out of the running temporarily.

Few of the stars have not had knee, ligament and tendon operations. Few have not broken an arm, a leg or a shoulder at some time or other.

Does that make them a wild bunch of sporting invalids who hurtle downhill? Podborski too had to recuperate last autumn from knee surgery before going on to become the season's outstanding downhill man.

His, the winner's view of the Kitzbühel track was: "It must surely be the toughest downhill in the world but it isn't dangerous. Many of those who fell overrated themselves."

The downhills in Grödnertal ("the most brutal downhill of my life," according to Peter Müller of Switzerland) and St Moritz, where 17 men were crocked in training and 12 who entered for the race failed to finish, were troubled by a shortage of snow.

Schranz is all in favour of the demand for an end to breakneck speeds on dangerous downhill runs.

In recent years all the humps have been eliminated from what amount to skiing autobahns, straight as a die, on which the sole aim is to perform at ever greater speed.

Better equipment enables competitors to ski faster.

Downhills must return to bends, greater technical difficulties and features more in keeping with the natural landscape.

This is what the skiers themselves are advising in talks with the international federation. Trainers and officials agree.

But, as Schranz readily admits: "Nothing more is likely to be done this season." And there is already talk of a new world speed record being set up at next year's world championships in Schladming.

Herbert Bögel

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 18 January 1981)



Birthday prize

Slalom silver medallist Christa Kinshofer sprang a surprise in the 6th World Cup downhill event at Crans Montana, Switzerland. With five days to go to her 20th birthday she came third — and was delighted! (Photo: dpa)

Nothing spared

Continued from page 10

clearly committed theatre? Views will differ, as accordingly will ... on the discussion embarked on by ... critics, especially in the wake of Gobert's production of Arno Holz's ... Aristocrats.

The critics felt that Zadek and others ... provided an alibi for an otherwise undistinguished repertoire chosen only to please.

Is this criticism warranted? The future course of events at West Berlin's municipal theatres alone will tell.

The result of the DM8m invested in ... of the Schiller-Theater cannot, however, be denied. There have been improvements in lighting and acoustics, with the orchestra pit being ...

At the same time the 50s-style decor of the auditorium and the foyer has partly been restored.

There having been no complete overall concept, the conversion work appears in part to have been commonsense in functionality, in part to have been ... than uniform in taste.

Rainer Hoeynck

(Handelsblatt, 16 January 1981)

Glider pilot Grosse returns with more world records

Lübeck glider ace Hans-Werner Grosse, 50, returned from Alice Springs, Australia, this year with four new world records to his credit, making it 23 in all so far.

When Alvin Parker flew from Odessa, Texas, 1,041.52 km to Nebraska on 31 July 1964 in a Finnish Sisu glider, pilots all over the world were convinced it was a record that would stand for years.

US glider ace Parker was the first pilot in the world to fly more than 1,000 km over a distance and on a route not previously arranged.

There was only one dissenter, Hans-Werner Grosse from Lübeck, who stuck his neck out and forecast:

"As glider designs are improved we will one day not only fly further but also be able to fly 1,000 km three-corner point-topoints."

His optimism was not only vindicated; he himself proved his point. Six years after Al Parker's memorable flight, on 4 June 1970, he flew his ASW 12 from Lübeck, Germany, to Angers, France.

The distance he covered, 1032.02 km, was a world record for a prearranged destination. It was to be the first of many.

On 25 April 1972 he piloted the same glider 1,460.8 km from Lübeck to Biarritz, near France's Atlantic border with Spain. This is a record that still stands.

Two years later he flew from Itzehoe, near Hamburg, to Marmande in the south of France. This again was a world record: 1,231.8 km over a set course.

On 7 June 1975 he achieved the distinction of being the first glider pilot ever to fly more than 1,000 km in a point-to-point. He covered 1,012.3 km over Finland.

On December 1978 he flew more than 1,100 km in a point-to-point, this time in the heart of Australia: 1,113 km at an average speed of 124.5 km/h.

Five days later he cleared 1,229.256 km in a point-to-point from Alice Springs. His latest feat, also in Australia, is to have covered more than 1,300 km in this particular event.

Yet he has already set himself another, seemingly even more utopian target: "I should like to fly more than 1,500 km one of these days from a starting-point in northern Germany."

Biarritz, the destination of his last record long-distance flight 8 years ago, is the furthest he has yet flown from near home.

But he has by no means abandoned hopes of one day flying over the Pyrenees to Pamplona, Spain, where the altitude of the Pyrenees is lowest.

"That, however, will call for an extraordinary aircraft," the Lübeck glider ace says, and he well knows that one such aircraft is currently under construction.

In Poppenhausen, Bavaria, Schleicher are building an exceptional glider with a wing span of 24 metres that is expected to work wonders.

It will be named the ASW 22, and designer Gerhard Waibel reckons it will be the ideal glider for long distances.

Will it turn out to be the aircraft that makres Hans-Werner Grosse's dream come true?

Karl Morgenstern

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 9 January 1981)



Lübeck glider ace Hans-Werner Grosse (Photo: Wilfried Witters)